



Date: November 14, 2017

Members of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for California Tropical Forest Standard

The Korea Forest Service (KFS) is a government agency that has overall responsibility for the establishment and implementation of forest policies and laws. The KFS manages and protects forests, including recreation forests, healing forests and urban forests to improve the quality of life. Also, we have been working on developing green technologies, such as forest bioenergy, with the aim of achieving green growth.

As Korea has a successful history of forest restoration, the KFS has made efforts to share our experience with many countries. We have signed MOUs with 31 countries to enhance forest cooperation and share our knowledge. In particular, the KFS has been implementing REDD+ pilot projects in Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos since 2012 to address climate change.

Moreover, we have joined the global trend towards prohibiting illegal logging and trade of illegally harvested timber from tropical countries. In this respect, the KFS has started implementing a new policy, Illegal Logging and Associated Trade Restriction, since October 1, 2018 to minimize the risk of illegally harvested timber entering to Korea.

Since the KFS has focused on addressing climate change and dealing with forest degradation and deforestation through various policies and projects, I support California's Tropical Forest Standard and its adoption by the Air Resources Board. I believe this Standard is a critical signal that can increase the impact of your state's policy to extend beyond its borders.

I know that addressing climate change is an urgent issue the world is now facing, and halting tropical forest deforestation is one of the most important steps we can take. I believe California's standard will provide a good example on how to set incentives for large-scale forest programs that address deforestation with environmental and social integrity.

Yours Sincerely,


Mr. Ko Kiyeon
Director General of International Affairs Bureau
Korea Forest Service
The Republic of Korea

